

Virginia D. Ells
751 Cornwall Ave
Cheshire CT 06410

March 6, 2014

Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Regarding: Raised Bill No. 5249
AN ACT CONCERNING COPAYMENTS FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES.

Dear Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

I am an Occupational Therapist working in an Adult Out Patient Rehab setting for Yale New Haven Hospital. It is so important to pass the Raised Bill No. 5249 which would be an extension of last year's Public Act No. 13-307 (House Bill 6546). Limiting co pays for OT is vital to the quality of care our patients receive. A similar bill was passed for Physical Therapy last year, Occupational Therapy should have the same limit.

As a Certified Hand Therapist, I see post op patients, and they often require intensive rehab following a reconstructive procedure. Imagine falling on the ice and suffering a severe wrist fracture, the surgeon puts in a plate and screws, and 6 wks later asks you to go to therapy 3x/week for 2 months; you have a \$50 copay. Even worse, our Medicare patients who take a supplemental plan, thinking they are "covering extra services" find themselves in the above situation. **Everyday, I have a senior citizen say, they can't come to therapy because they can't afford it.**

Please support this legislation, it will help so many individuals.

I appreciate your time and energy concerning this, and I would be happy to respond to questions, or discuss this further. Feel free to call me!!

Sincerely,

Virginia D. Ells

Cell Phone: 203 824 3290
E-mail: virginia.ells@ynhh.org